<u>Amendments to the Claims</u>:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

1. – 33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for searching and displaying a structured document including performing a full-text search to the structured document and highlighted displaying of information on a position of characters meeting a search query in the structured document, the structured document comprising a plurality of elements as its basic structure, the method comprising the steps of:

generating, by a processor, an original analyzed structured document to be searched;

removing, by a processor, predefined element tags from the original analyzed structured document, and concatenating content character strings of elements made adjacent in the original analyzed structured document by removal of the predefined element tags to thereby generate a structured document for a full-text search including the concatenated content character strings omitting the removed predefined element tags, and generating information for restoring the removed predefined element tags;

inputting a search query via by an input unit;

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acquiring, ~~by a processor,~~ information on a position of a character string meeting the search query in the structured document for ~~full-text~~ a full-text search;

converting, ~~by a processor,~~ the information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the structured document for the full-text search into information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the original analyzed structured document;

adding, by a processor, element information for the highlighted displaying of the information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original analyzed structured document;

generating, ~~by a processor,~~ a text string of the structured document from the analyzed structured document with the element information added ~~thereto~~ to the structured document; and

outputting for display, via an output unit, the generated text string including highlighted characters in the text string according to the added element information.

35. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein when two query terms in the search query match with character strings close to each other, the respective query terms and the minimum character string which contains both of said query terms are displayed in highlighted text with different display formats.

36. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein each of a plurality of query terms constituting the search query and the whole element

including said query terms are displayed in highlighted text with different display formats.

37. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein a highlighted display format for highlighted display is set using a method specified in said search query.

38. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein the character string meeting the search query is displayed in highlighted text using any one of a plurality of ~~highlight~~ highlighted display formats for each query term.

39. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 38, wherein the highlighted display format for each query term is determined based on information on occurrence frequency of each query term.

40. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 38, wherein the display format of highlighted display for each query term is determined based on weighting information ~~in weighting~~ that is predetermined for each query term.

41.   (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein

said step of generating a text string includes a step of producing the text string corresponding to the sub-elements to be displayed, from sub-elements of the analyzed structured document.

42. – 45. (canceled)

46.   (currently amended) A structured document searching and displaying apparatus for performing a full-text search to the structured document, and for highlighted-displaying of information on a position of characters meeting a search query in the structured document, the structured document comprising a plurality of elements as its basic structure, said apparatus including a processor, a memory unit, a file unit and an input/output unit, said processor comprising:

means for analyzing a structured document ~~analyzing means~~ and for generating an original analyzed structured document to be searched;

means for removing predefined element tags from the original analyzed structured document, and concatenating content character strings of elements made adjacent in the original analyzed structured document by removal of the predefined element tags to thereby generate a structured document for a full-text search including the concatenated content character strings omitting the removed predefined element tags, and generating information for restoring the removed predefined element tags;

means for full-text searching and processing means for acquiring information

on a position of a character string meeting the search query in the structured

document for full-text search;

means for converting the information on the position of the character string

meeting the search query in the structured document for the full-text search into

information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the

original analyzed structured document;

means for adding element information for the highlighted displaying of the

information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original

analyzed structured document; and

means for generating a text string of the structured document from the

analyzed structured document with the element information added thereto.

47. (canceled)

48. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium for storing a

program, executable by a computer, with computer-executable instructions for

implementing a structured document searching and displaying method of performing

a full-text search to the structured document, and for highlighted display of

information on a position of the characters meeting a search query in the structured

document, the structured document comprising a plurality of elements as its basic

structure,

in an information processing system including a wherein the computer-

executable instructions executed by a processor of an apparatus including the

processor, a memory unit, a file unit and an input/output unit~~, said method~~

~~comprising steps executed by the processor, said steps comprising~~ cause the

processor to:

~~generating~~ generate an original analyzed structured document to be

searched;

~~removing~~ remove predefined element tags from the original analyzed

structured document,~~ and concatenating~~ concatenate content character strings of

elements made adjacent in the original analyzed structured document by removal of

the predefined element tags to thereby generate a structured document for a full-text

search including the concatenated content character strings omitting the removed

predefined element tags, and~~ generating~~ generate information for restoring the

removed predefined element tags;

~~acquiring~~ acquire information on a position of a character string meeting the

search query in the structured document for~~ full-text~~ a full-text search;

~~converting~~ convert the information on the position of the character string

meeting the search query in the structured document for the full-text search into

information on a position of the character string meeting the search query in the

original analyzed structured document;

~~adding~~ add element information for the highlighted displaying of the

information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original

analyzed structured document; and

~~generating~~ generate a text string of the structured document from the

analyzed structured document with the element information added~~ thereto~~ to the

structured document.

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49. (canceled)